

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Ian and Valerie Bone, Lynx Trail ROW
Proposed Implementation Date: Winter/Spring 2014
Proponent: Ian and Valerie Bone
Location: NW1/4NW1/4 section 20 T14N R4W
County: Lewis and Clark
Trust: Common Schools

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Ian and Valerie Bone wish to obtain an easement to use and maintain an existing road (Lynx Trail Drive) across state land in section 20 T14N R4W. The easement would allow access to Mr. and Mrs. Bone's primary residence. The proposed easement would be the same as other easement holders on Lynx Trail Drive- 30' in width and extend ~376.4' involving a total of ~0.259 ac. of state land.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

Proponent, lessee (vacant). A multi-user easement is in place for the proponent from Lyon Creek Road to Section 20 on existing road (Lynx Trail Drive).

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

Contacting other agencies and obtaining permits is unnecessary.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No Action Alternative- Do not proceed to issue the easement as proposed.

Action Alternative- Proceed to issue the easement as proposed.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

Action Alternative- Minor increases in dust due to increased traffic on the road may occur. Minimal negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts may transpire; no construction will occur on the existing road.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

Action Alternative- Deer, elk, and other animals use the general area. Lyons Creek provides a solid fishery and runs adjacent to Lyons Creek Road which provides access to Lynx Trail Drive. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

Few Grizzly Bears inhabit the upper Lyons Creek drainage. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

Action Alternative- No historical, archaeological or paleontological resources have been identified on section 20. A cultural survey was previously completed on section 20 along Lyons Creek Road. No cultural resources were identified. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

Several other EAC's have been completed regarding other easement holders for the identical use of the same section of road (Lynx Trail Drive). An EAC and a Cultural Survey were completed due to a Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposal and consequent project to repair an eroded, short segment of Lyons Creek road and to conduct needed stream bank stabilization work.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

Action Alternative- None. Legal access to Section 20 will not be impacted.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

Action Alternative- Access will be granted to one additional, primary residence in the small neighborhood on Lynx Trail Drive.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

Action Alternative- None. No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

Action Alternative- Issuing the easement would provide some income to the trust, (~ 1000.00/A at 0.259 acres = \$ 259.00); the easement will incur minimal impact and facilitate access for the proponent.

No Action Alternative- Not issuing the easement would result in no income to the trust and would not provide the proponent legal access to their primary residence.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Andy Burgoyne	Date: 1/16/2014
	Title: Helena Unit Manager	

V. FINDING**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:**


Action Alternative - No negative, detrimental or cumulative impacts are expected; no construction will occur on the existing road. Proceed to issue the easement as proposed.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

None expected

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

☐ EIS ☐ More Detailed EA ☒ No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Gavin Anderson
	Title: Forest & Lands Program Manager, CLO, DNRC
Signature: 	Date: January 17, 2014